

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 015335
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY: IO/UNA/JFTEFFT

S/S-O:RLHART

-----069401 192328Z /64

O 192211Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 015335

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 02027 JAN 18

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 02027

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: ENCOURAGEMENT OF SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 11011

1. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT COURSE OF ACTION U.S. ADOPTS
IN HORN DEPENDS ON IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO IT IN GLOBAL
CONTEXT. HOWEVER, SEEN FROM CAIRO, SINE QUA NON FOR MEAN-
INGFUL (AND, ULTIMATELY, SUCCESSFUL) ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI
NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF CLAIM TO
OGADEN AS PART OF SOMALIA, WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD HAVE TO
BE RENUNCIATION OF CLAIM TO GREATER SOMALIA. DESPITE
CONSTANT EGYPTIAN PRESSURES ON U.S. TO SUPPORT SOMALIS,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 015335

BELIEVE THAT MAXIMUM WE SHOULD SUPPORT UNDER PRESENT
CONDITIONS IS AUTONOMY FOR OGADEN REGION WITHIN ETHIOPIA
(WITH PERHAPS SOME CULTURAL LINKS WITH SOMALIA). GIVEN
OFT-STATED KENYAN CONCERNS OVER SOMALI IRREDENTISM AND
RECENT TENSIONS IN DJIBOUTI, IN LARGE PART DUE TO SOMALI
INTERFERENCE, WE SEE NO WAY SHORT OF SOMALI RENUNCIATION
OF GREATER SOMALIA TO REESTABLISHMENT DEGREE OF STABILITY

TO HORN REGION.

2. HOW CAN WE MAKE SUCH A SUDDEN AND SEEMINGLY HUMILIATING REVERSAL PALATABLE TO SOMALIA? BELIEVE BEST COURSE WOULD BE THREE-PRONGED APPROACH: (A) CONVENING OF HIGH-POWERED, ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING MAJOR WESTERN POWERS, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, EGYPT, AND PROBABLY SOVIET UNION TO NEGOTIATE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR OGADEN WITHIN ETHIOPIA AS WELL AS, POSSIBLY, SIMILAR INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ERITREA; (B) TAKING A VERY TOUGH LINE WITH SOVIETS, INCLUDING IMMEDIATE CRACK-DOWN ON CUBA FOR RENEGING ON PLEDGE TO REDUCE ACTIVITY IN AFRICA, AND (C) PROMISING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOMALIA SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH SOMALI ANNOUNCEMENT OF RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS IN OGADEN AND DELIVERY OF SUCH ARMS CONTINGENT UPON FINAL WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI TROOPS FROM REGION AND SUCCESS IN AUTONOMY TALKS.

3. IN REGARD TO ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE, WE SEE NO PROSPECT OF ETHIOPIA UNDER MENGISTU, OR ANY OTHER LEADER, ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOMALIA WHILE SOMALI TROOPS OCCUPYING OGADEN, AND CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD CARRY FORCE OF MAJOR WORLD POWERS, PERHAPS UNDER SECURITY COUNCIL AUSPICES, MIGHT INDUCE SOMALIA TO DO THE MINIMUM, WITH FIG LEAF THAT ARRANGEMENTS TO BE GUARANTEED BY WORLD COMMUNITY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 015335

4. CONCERNING CRACK DOWN ON CUBA, IT COULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT IMPROVEMENT OF U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS DURING 1977 WAS INITIALLY MADE CONTINGENT UPON REDUCTION OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND THIS HAS DEFINITELY NOT TAKEN PLACE. WOULD EVEN RECOMMEND CLOSING DOWN OF RESPECTIVE INTERESTS SECTIONS AND UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF ALL OTHER MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. BELIEVE IT ALSO LIKELY THAT EGYPT, AND ALSO DOUBTLESS SOMALIA AND SAUDI ARABIA, WILL ASK US TO TAKE SPECIFIC HARD-LINE MEASURES AGAINST SOVIETS, IF WE INTENT ON SECURING SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS IN OGADEN.

5. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OAU MEDIATION EFFORT HOLDS OUT MUCH PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS. EILTS
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE015335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780029-0736
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780144/aaaabkow.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7031c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 11011
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3745791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENCOURAGEMENT OF SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, US
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7031c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014